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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY   East Germany

SUBJECT   Organization of the Red Cross

PLACE
ACQUIRED   25X1A

DATE OF
INFO.

DATE DISTR.   10 August 1953

NO. OF PAGES   2   25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X   25X1X

1. The East German Red Cross organization, which had been under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior, was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Health, effective 1 April 1953. The Red Cross organization is headed by a Central Committee (Zentralausschuss), including Dr. Ludwig (fnu) as first chairman, Frau Eppinger (fnu), and Dr. Mecklinger (fnu). The administrative work is carried out in the Central Secretariat, headed by Dr. Mehrmack. There are seven departments:

    a. Finance, headed by Bitterlich (fnu).

    b. Organization, vacant.

    c. Administration, headed by Hollert (fnu).

    d. Planning, headed by Dr. Bublitz (fnu).

    e. Personnel, headed by Hentschel (fnu).

    f. Medical supplies (Sanitaetsmaterial), headed by Seiter (fnu).

    g. Transportation, headed by Just (fnu).

The Central Committee, the Central Secretariat, and the seven departments are located in Dresden N-6, Koeppekestrasse 2, in the building of the former Ministry of Interior of the state of Saxony.

2. The Red Cross Central Committee is responsible for the political activity of the Red Cross organization and also has the over-all responsibility for its work. The Central Secretariat is responsible for the organization and the direction of the medical units (Sanitaetseinheiten) and for the establishment and supervision of the epidemic hospitals (Seuchenlazarette). The Department for Finance establishes the finance plan of the organization, procures the necessary credits, and collects the central share of membership fees. The Department for Organization is charged with the control of the medical units. The Department for Administration is responsible for the administration of central headquarters in Dresden and for the investments of the Red Cross organization. The Department for Planning is charged with the planning of material and with schooling and indoctrination carried out in the central Red Cross school in Wiltheim, Oberlausitz. The Personnel Department supervises the cadre politics of the organization. The Department for Medical Supplies establishes the material procurement plan of the Red Cross

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organization, organizes medical supply depots, and is responsible for equipping medical units and supervising first aid stations.

3. Attached to the Central Red Cross Headquarters in Dresden is a Central Medical Supply Depot, which is also located in the building at Koeppekestrusse 2.

4. On the next lower level, the Red Cross organization has a Bezirk Committee (Bezirkskomittee) in every East German district. The Bezirk Committees have the same structure as the Central Committee, with a Bezirk Secretariat and seven departments, corresponding to those in Dresden headquarters. Every Bezirk Committee also has a district medical supply depot attached to it.

5. The next lower level is the Kreis, with a Kreis Committee heading the Kreis organization. Whereas members of the central headquarters in Dresden and of the Bezirk organizations work full time and receive full-time pay, Kreis functionaries are not paid and work only part time. The Kreis committees do not have the seven departments as the Bezirk and central bodies do.

6. The lowest level is the local committee (Ortsausschuss), which consists of one or more persons. Every town has one or more medical squads (Sanitaets-gruppen). Four squads form a medical platoon (Sanitaetszug). Four medical platoons constitute a medical unit (Sanitaetseinheit).

7. As of late May 1953 the East German Red Cross organizations had 155,000 enrolled members. It is planned to issue blue-grey uniforms to 60,000 Red Cross members during 1953.